

Believe

(Japan)

This is a modern Japanese recreational dance taught as a progressive partner mixer. However, it can also be done as a partner dance or even as an individual dance done in a mixed circle. Because partners are never in close contact in this dance, this is an ideal dance for two women to dance together either in the mixer or non-mixer partner format. For all three of these possible formats, only Fig. IV is different. The name of the dance comes from the last line of verses 2, 4, and the finale of the song (see lyrics) that is in English and includes the phrase “I believe in [the] future.” The Japanese pronunciation is close to “bee-reeb.” This dance was taught by Iwao and Machiko Tamaoki at the 2012 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. The choreographer is Ms. Kyoto Kato of Kanagawa Prefecture.

CD: Japanese Music CD, track 14 (Biri Bu). 4/4 meter

Formation: Pairs of dancers or mixed sex individuals facing center in a single circle; hands are at sides. If partners are mixed sex, W should be on M's R.

| Measures | 4/4 meter | PATTERN |
|----------|--|---------|
| 1-8 | <u>INTRODUCTION.</u> No Action (Start with singing). | |
| I. | <u>STEP-TOGETHER, STEP-TOUCH</u> | |
| 1-2 | Beg with R ft and moving sideways CCW, step-together, step-touch (R, L, R, touch L). R arm moves a little to L as it swoops up and extends to the R with elbows bent and hand at about shoulder height with palms facing up (cts 1-4). Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, arm movements, and direction (meas 2). | |
| 3-4 | Repeat meas 1-2, but with arms held high, almost straight and with palms facing fwd. | |
| II. | <u>GRAPEVINES</u> | |
| 1-2 | Holding hands in V position, dance 7 grapevine steps to R (CCW), starting with R ft step to R, L ft step in front (meas 1, cts 1-4, meas 2, cts 1-3); touch with L ft in place (ct 4). | |
| 3-4 | Repeat meas 1-2 with grapevine to L, but start with step to L on L ft, and step behind on R ft. On meas 4, ct 4 touch with R ft in place. | |
| III. | <u>TOWARD CENTER AND BACK</u> | |
| 1-2 | Take 4 steps twd the center beg R ft, gradually raising straight arms (cts 1-4). Sway to the R with joined hands above head also moving to the R (cts 1,2); sway to L while moving joined hands to L (cts 3,4). | |
| 3-4 | Repeat meas 1-2, but bring hands slowly down to sides while walking backward to place (R,L,R,L); arms stay down on meas 4. | |
| IV. | <u>SMALL CIRCLES</u> | |
| | Directions here depend on which of the three dance formats (A, B, or C) is being danced. | |

- 1-2 A. Couple Mixer – Holding both hands with ptr (W is on the M's R side), walk 8 steps rotating CW as a cpl.
 B. Partners (non-mixer) – Same as for Couple Mixer.
 C. Non-partner – Walk 8 steps individually making half of a figure 8, starting with angling to the L (CW).
- 3-4 A. Couple Mixer – M turns to face W on his other side (corner) and holding both hands walks 8 steps rotating CW as a cpl to end with W on M's R (new ptr). It is also acceptable for cpl to rotate CCW for these 8 steps if so desired.
 B. Partners (non mixer) – Without dropping hand hold, walk 8 steps CCW rotating as a cpl to end with W on M's R to begin dance again.
 C. Non-partner – Walk 8 steps to complete the figure of 8 and return to original position.

Repeat dance to end of music. The dance ends with Figure III, meas 1-2.

Lyrics

The song was originally released in 1998 as one of the ending theme songs for a TV documentary series. It has since been included in school music textbooks and sung by many, especially at school concerts and graduation ceremonies. When the Fukushima earthquake and tsunami affected so many, this song become one of the theme songs to encourage people to unite and work together.

Tatoeba kimiga kizutuite
Kujikesooni nattatokiwa
Kanasazubokuga sobaniite
Sasaeteageruyo sonokatao

Let's say you are hurt.
And when you feel like just giving up
I'll always be around
To carry the burden with you

Seikaijyuuno kiboonosete
Konotikyuuwa mawatteru
Imamiraino tobira oakerutoki
Kanasimiya kurushimiga
Itunohika yorokobinikawarudarou
I believe in future shinjiteru

Strength comes from everyone's hope
Our planet spins
When we open the gate to the future
And overcome sorrow and suffering
We will someday be filled with joy
I believe in the future, I believe.

Moshimodarekaga kiminosobade
Nakidashisouni nattatokiwa
Damatteudeo torinagara
Issyoniaruite kureruyone

Let's say you see someone
Who is overwhelmed, tears welling up
Would you quietly take his hands
And just be with him?

Sekaijyuuno yasashisade
Konotikyuu tsutsumitai
Imasunaona kimotininarerukara
Akogareya itoshisaga
Oozorani hajikete hinarudarou
I believe in future shinjiteru

We want to surround this planet
with all the kindness in the world.
Let's be true to our feelings.
Our admiration and love
Will burst open and sparkle in the sky.
I believe in the future, I believe

Imamiraino tobira oakerutoki
I believe in future shinjiteru

Let's open the gates to the future.
I believe in the future, I believe.